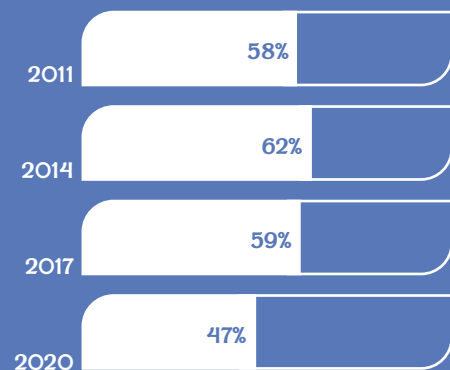


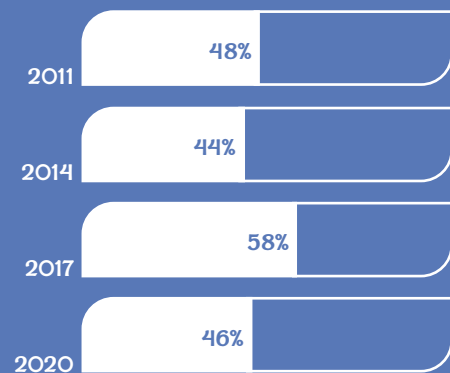
#### CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



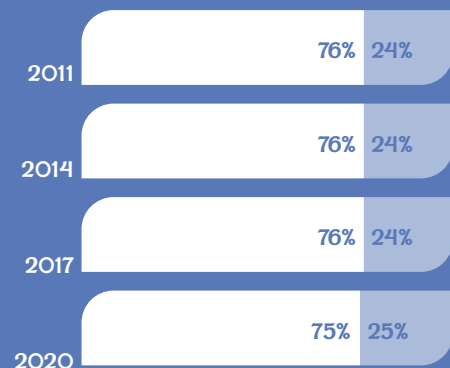
#### PERCENTAGE OF 2- TO 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ATTENDING ECEC



#### ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



#### PERCENTAGE OF ECE FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020

## ONTARIO



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020



## ABOUT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS

The Early Childhood Education Report (ECER) is produced by the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. Twenty-one benchmarks organized into five equally weighted categories, totalling a score of 15. The benchmarks evaluate governance structures, funding levels, access, quality in early learning environments, and the rigour of accountability mechanisms. Results are populated from detailed provincial and territorial profiles developed by the researchers and reviewed by provincial and territorial officials.

For the Canada-wide overview, a detailed look at the benchmarks, the full methodology, and all federal, provincial, and territorial profiles please visit [ECEReport.ca](https://ecereport.ca).

Please cite this publication as:

Akbari, E., McCuaig, K., & Foster, D. (2021). *The Early Childhood Education Report 2020*. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/ University of Toronto.

This Ontario profile captures early learning and child care initiatives to March 31, 2020. The New Developments section highlights activities occurring after this date.

In July 2020, the federal and provincial government agreed to a one-year extension of the Canada–Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, which allocates nearly \$147 million in 2020–2021 for early learning and child care (ELCC). New funding will support short-term measures to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on Ontario’s ELCC services and will continue supporting the initiatives outlined in the first three-year agreement as business resumes.<sup>1</sup>

*Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario, 2020 Report*<sup>2</sup> arises out of the five-year review of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA). The report highlights proposed actions the government may undertake. These include removing the need for ECE qualifications for staff working with Kindergarten and school-aged children, clarifying requirements for inclusion of children with special needs, reporting and regulatory changes, and supports for First Nations-, Inuit-, and Métis-led services.

### COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

In response to COVID-19, the Government of Ontario suspended the operation of K-12 public schools effective March 14, 2020,<sup>3</sup> and licensed child care centres within days thereafter.<sup>4</sup>

Public health officials permitted select ELCC programs to remain open for frontline workers. Emergency centres were fully funded by the province. To protect child care spaces, Ontario continued to fund child care providers and EarlyON Child and Family Centres to help them remain financially sustainable.<sup>5</sup>

During the peak of the pandemic, the province temporarily prevented child care centres from collecting payments from parents.<sup>6</sup> To help

families pay for the extra costs associated with school and child care closures, the province enacted the Support for Families program, in which parents received a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs up to 21 years of age.<sup>7</sup>

Emergency child care ended June 26, 2020, coinciding with the province’s plan to reopen child care centres at reduced capacity. To support the reopening, some provincial supports were maintained to cover the costs of cleaning, protective gear for staff, and other health and safety requirements.<sup>8</sup>

On June 19, 2020, the Ontario government released its safety plan for the resumption of classes for the 2020–2021 school year, which included additional public health protocols for students and staff.<sup>9</sup> Elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 8) were permitted to offer in-class instruction five days a week.<sup>10</sup> September 1, 2020, also marked the reopening of licensed child care centres and EarlyON Family Centres across the province, allowing programs to operate at full capacity with health and safety procedures remaining in place. To support the added cleaning costs and health and safety requirements associated with reopening, an additional \$234.6 million in funding was allocated to licensed child care and early years programs as part of the Safe Restart Agreement between the provincial and federal governments.<sup>11</sup> To support families during the reopening of these programs, the Ontario government launched a webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres.<sup>12</sup> An additional \$380 million was made available through the Support for Learners program to help offset additional learning costs during the pandemic. Through this initiative families with children age 0–12 years could receive a one-time payment of up to \$200 per child, and \$250 for those with special needs up to 21 years of age.<sup>13</sup>

TABLE 1.1 ONTARIO GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

<b>Lead Ministry/ Department</b>	Ministry of Education <sup>a</sup>
<b>Related Ministry/ Department</b>	n/a
<b>ECE Supervisory Unit</b>	Early Years and Child Care Division <sup>a</sup> Student Achievement Division <sup>b</sup>
<b>Policy Framework</b>	n/a
<b>Legislation</b>	Child Care and Early Years Act (2014) <sup>c</sup> O. Reg 137/15 (General) <sup>d</sup> O. Reg 138/15 (Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance) <sup>e</sup> Education Act (amended 2020) <sup>f</sup> O. Reg 221/11 (Extended Day and Third Party Programs) <sup>g</sup> Reg. 224/10: Full-Day Junior Kindergarten <sup>h</sup> Early Childhood Educators Act (2007) <sup>i</sup>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	
<b>Local Service Delivery</b>	47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) manage child care and related early years services. <sup>j</sup>  First Nations establish, administer, operate, and fund child care and early years programs and services. <sup>k</sup>  31 English Public School Boards; 29 English Catholic; 4 French Public; 8 French Catholic; 10 School Authorities consisting of 4 geographically-isolated boards and 6 hospital-based school authorities. In addition, there is 1 Provincial Schools Authority. <sup>l</sup>
<b>Community/Sector Oversight</b>	n/a

a Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education, Org Chart. Retrieved from: [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/edu\\_chart\\_eng.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/edu_chart_eng.pdf)

b Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. (May 13, 2009). Student Achievement Division. [Memorandum]. Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/may2009/SAwithChart.pdf>

c Government of Ontario. (2014). Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>

d Government of Ontario. O. Reg. 137/15: General under Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1 consolidated December 23, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137>

e Government of Ontario. O. Reg. 138/15: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance consolidated September 1, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150138>

f Government of Ontario. Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E2. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e02>

g Government of Ontario. O. Reg. 221/11: Extended Day and Third Party Programs under Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 consolidated September 1, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/110221>

h Government of Ontario. O. Reg. 224/10: Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten under Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 consolidated June 30, 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/100224>

i Government of Ontario. Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 7, Sched. 8 consolidated December 8, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/07e07>

j Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. Child Care Service System Managers and their Service Areas. Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/websiteServiceManagers.html>

k Government of Ontario. (2014). Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>

l Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. Education Facts 2018-2019 (Preliminary). Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html>

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Early Years and Child Care Division in the Ministry of Education is responsible for early years, child care, and child and family programs, including the development of legislation, regulations, and policy, program implementation, child care quality assurance, licensing, and program assessment. It also investigates and responds to complaints regarding licensed and unlicensed child care.<sup>14</sup>

The Ministry of Education's Student Achievement Division is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring Ontario's Student Success strategy, including Kindergarten children's academic achievement.

The Strategic Policy and Planning Division in the Ministry of Education is responsible for policy and legislation.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

The results of the five-year review of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA), described in the *Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario, 2020 Report*, signal the government's intentions to amend Ontario's *Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework* (2017). The 2020 report outlines the key actions the government will undertake to respond to feedback, including consulting on regulatory amendments and policy.

In June 2017, the Government of Canada and Ontario signed the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2017–2020.<sup>15</sup> Under the agreement, the federal government allocated nearly \$435 million to Ontario over three years. The 2019–2020 agreement supported access to child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres, as well as training and professional learning opportunities for the early years and child care workforce. Funding through the agreement also financed three Centres of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care to support professional learning. These included centres for the First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Francophone sectors. Funding for the centres ended in March 2020, with some professional supports maintained for Francophone and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis

professionals.<sup>16</sup> The report on the impact of the agreements is available for review.<sup>17</sup>

## SERVICE DESIGN

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**KINDERGARTEN:** Kindergarten is a two-year, full-day, non-mandatory program offered by school boards to all children who turn 4 years of age by December 31. Educator teams of certified teachers and registered early childhood educators lead the program, except for class sizes of 16 or fewer children that have only a teacher only.

**BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE:** School boards are required to provide before- and after-school programming for children in Kindergarten up to and including Grade 6 when there is sufficient parent demand and/or viability. School boards may directly operate programs or may enter into agreements with third parties. Third-party providers are either licensed child care centres eligible to receive fee subsidy payments or authorized recreational and skills building programs. Authorized recreational and skill building programs can operate without a child care licence for up to three consecutive hours per day. These programs may serve children aged 4 years and up (or turning 4 years by the end of the year if the program is offered on or after September 1 of that year).<sup>18</sup> This provision is now under review to remove the time restriction.<sup>19</sup>

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

The ministry licenses child care programs serving infants to children up to and including 12 years of age. Care may be provided in child care centres (including nursery schools, full-day child care, and before- and after-school programs) or by home child care providers contracted by a licensed agency. Licences may be held by an individual, First Nation, or for-profit or non-profit corporations, in addition to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), school boards, post-secondary institutions, and parent cooperatives. Before- and after-school programs operated directly by school boards do not require a licence.

**HOME CHILD CARE:** Home child care agencies are licensed by the province and contract with individual home-based child care providers.<sup>20</sup> A home child care provider who is contracted with an agency may care for up to six children under the age of 13 years including their own children under the age of 4 years. No more than three children may be under the age of 2 years.<sup>21</sup>

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed caregivers are not inspected by the Ministry of Education and are not required to meet most provincial standards. However, the Ministry of Education does investigate all complaints from the public about child care providers who may be operating illegally. An unlicensed child care provider may care for a maximum of five children under the age of 13 years including the provider's own children under 4 years of age. No more than three children may be under the age of 2 years. Providers must inform parents that their home is not licensed.<sup>22</sup> A licence is not required for circumstances that are considered exempt under the Act, such as care operated when the child's parents are on-site at all times, care that is provided in the child's home, camps that only care for children aged 4 years and over, programs with a primary purpose of academic or skill-based recreation, and private schools that enrol children aged 4 years and older.

### CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer free drop-in child and family programs for caregivers and children, facilitated by registered early childhood educators. EarlyON centres must offer a suite of mandatory core services related to supporting early learning and development, engaging parents and caregivers, and making connections for families. Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) are responsible for the local management of EarlyON centres as part of their responsibility for the service management of child care and other human services.<sup>23</sup>

## LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

School boards deliver Kindergarten programs, provide special needs interventions, and ensure the provision of before- and after-school program(s) on instructional days.

The planning of early years services and the administration of parent fee subsidies and operating funding for child care programs, child care special needs services, and EarlyON centres is the legislated responsibility of 47 CMSMs and DSSABs. Some CMSMs and DSSABs directly deliver child care and related early years programs. In addition, some have developed their own quality assurance systems and child care registries. Service system managers are required to consult and cooperate with school boards in the development and implementation of child care and early years service system plans.<sup>24</sup>

First Nations oversee child care on-reserves. The Ministry of Education licenses child care programs and pays 100% of educator wage subsidies, special needs resourcing, transformation costs, health and safety, supervisor network capacity building, and child and family programs. The federal government reimburses Ontario for a portion of these costs. First Nations manage the parent fee subsidy system in their communities and share the costs on a 20%/80% basis with the province.<sup>25</sup>

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ OVERSIGHT

The Early Years and Child Care Division convenes stakeholder tables, but there is no legislated or policy requirement for advisory bodies. CMSMs and DSSABs may sponsor local stakeholder tables as part of their service management and planning functions.

The *Education Act* requires parent councils in every school. School boards with large First Nations, Inuit, and Métis student populations generally have First Nations, Inuit, and Métis advisory committees.<sup>26</sup>



TABLE 2.1 ONTARIO ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

<b>Capital funding</b>	
Capital for child care in communities <sup>a,b</sup>	\$6,015,899
Capital for child care in schools <sup>a,c</sup>	\$42,105,725
Capital for child care in French language schools <sup>a,d</sup>	\$4,093,425
<b>Operating funding</b>	
Operating funding <sup>a</sup>	\$744,008,492
Special needs resourcing <sup>a</sup>	\$125,550,350
Child care fee subsidies <sup>a,e</sup>	\$880,435,048
CMSM/DSSAB cost shared funding <sup>f</sup>	\$201,757,459
Small water works, territory without municipal organizations, qualifications upgrade program <sup>a</sup>	\$7,030,799
<b>Total regulated child care<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>\$2,010,997,197</b>

a Personal Communication, Government of Ontario, Ministry of Education, October 5, 2020.

b Capital for communities are funds for CMSM/DSSAB expenditures under First Nations-, Inuit, and Métis-led programs for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. These include both child care and child and family (EarlyON) expenditures.

c Capital for schools represents school boards actual expenditures per Public Accounts for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. It includes funding for school board French language expenditures that are separate from French language schools funding under Official Languages in Education.

d Official Languages in Education 2019-2020 actual expense.

e The child care fee subsidies figure is an approximate figure as the amount of fee subsidy funding provided to each CMSM/DSSAB is not possible to determine due to the introduction of flexible reporting under the child care funding formula. The fiscal year figure was obtained by the ministry by taking 75% of CMSM/DSSAB 2018 Financial Statement entitlement and 25% of the 2019 Revised Estimates submissions (which includes both actuals and projections). Additionally, due to a number of outstanding 2018-2019 First Nations Financial Statements submissions, information from their 2018-2019 allocations has also been included. 2019 Financial Statement figures and 2020 submissions are not yet available at this time.

f Ontario requires CMSM/DSSAB to cost share child care services. Estimate based on a survey of CMSM/DSSAB 2018-2019 budgets. Expenditures were not available for Algoma District Services Administration Board and District of Cochrane Social Services Administration Board.

g Expenditures include federal funding through the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.



**TABLE 2.2 ONTARIO ALLOCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020**

Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	\$4,103,466,148
Regulated child care	\$2,010,997,197
Other ECE spending (for family support) <sup>c</sup>	\$100,000,000
<b>Total ECEC spending<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>\$6,214,463,345</b>
Total provincial budget <sup>e</sup>	\$164,768,000,000
<b>ECEC as a % of provincial budget</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

- a Estimate based on 2018–2019 enrolment of 263,695 children @ \$15,561 per pupil spending. Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. Education Facts 2018–2019 (Preliminary). Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html>. \$15,561 per pupil spending based on total spending for K–12 education of \$31.752 billion 2019–2020 actual consolidated statement of operations divided by total K–12 enrolment. Government of Ontario. Treasury Board Secretariat. *Public Accounts of Ontario: Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2019–2020*. Retrieved from: <https://files.ontario.ca/tbs-2019-20-annual-report-and-consolidated-financial-statements-en.pdf>
- c Represents funding for EarlyON Child and Family Programs. Includes \$40 million of federal funding through the Canada–Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Personal Communication, Government of Ontario, Ministry of Education, December 1, 2020.
- d Does not include federal funding to Indigenous communities through First Nations, Inuit, and Métis agreements.
- e 2019–2020 actual expense. Government of Ontario. Ontario’s Action Plan. Protect. Support. Recover. Retrieved from: <https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/pdf/2020-ontario-budget-en.pdf>

In 2019, the province introduced the Ontario Child Care Access and Relief from Expenses tax credit. Eligible families can claim up to 75% of their eligible child care expenses, including services provided by child care centres, homes, and camps.<sup>27</sup>

Ontario’s new child care capital strategy focuses on aligning future early years and child care

capital investments to construction in schools. Through this strategy, the province has committed up to \$1 billion over the next five years to create up to 30,000 child care spaces, including up to 10,000 spaces in newly built schools.<sup>28</sup>





TABLE 3.1 ONTARIO CHILD POPULATION 0 TO 5 YEARS (2019)

Child population 0 to 5 years	877,614
0 to <24 months	289,895
24 months to <5 years <sup>a</sup>	438,360
5 years <sup>a</sup>	149,359
Total population of Ontario <sup>b</sup>	14,659,616
Children 0 to 5 years as % of total population	6%

a Statistics Canada. Table 17100005; Formerly Table 051-0001 – Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2019, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed: April 24, 2020).

b Government of Ontario. (January 2020). Ontario Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: <https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/ecupdates/factsheet.pdf>

TABLE 3.2 ONTARIO LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHERS BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (2019)

	Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child
0 to <24 months	163,800	65.5%
24 months to <5 years	208,100	70.4%
5 years	59,400	70.7%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to 5 years	431,300	
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to 5 years		68.5%

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. 0620\_13 Table 3 – Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of mothers by age of youngest child, Canada, provinces, territories, annual average, 2019.

TABLE 3.3 ONTARIO ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2019-2020)

Children attending 4-year-old Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	129,159
4-year-old child population <sup>b</sup>	147,823
% of children attending Junior Kindergarten	87%
Children attending 5-year-old Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	134,536
5-year-old child population <sup>b</sup>	149,359
% of children attending Kindergarten	90%

a Does not include private school enrolment or children attending licensed child care. Not all First Nations schools report their enrolment numbers to provincial authorities. Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. Education Facts 2018-2019 (Preliminary). Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html>

b Statistics Canada. Table 17100005; Formerly Table 051-0001 – Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2019, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed: April 24, 2020).

TABLE 3.4 ONTARIO LICENSED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

<b>Spaces by age group</b>	
Infant (0 to <18 months)	14,151
Toddler (18 to <30 months)	48,858
Preschool (30 months to <6 years)	115,001
Kindergarten (44 months to <7 years)	107,260
School age (68 months to <13 years)	176,840
Family age (0 to <13 years)	692
Total capacity in centre-based child care	462,802
<b>Facilities by type</b>	
Number of home child care agencies	131
Number of approved homes	8,296
<b>Facilities by auspice</b>	
Non-profit	4,187
For-profit	1,378

Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. *Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020*. Retrieved from: <http://edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/annual-report-2020.html>. The Ontario government licenses First Nations child care programs. Funding for First Nations child care programs is cost shared between the federal government and the provincial government through fiscal agreements with First Nations. Health Canada. *First Nations Head Start Standards Guide*. Retrieved from: [https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-ISC-SAC/DAM-HLTH/STAGING/texte-text/family-health-head-start-ahsor\\_fn-standards-guide\\_1582214848065\\_eng.pdf](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-ISC-SAC/DAM-HLTH/STAGING/texte-text/family-health-head-start-ahsor_fn-standards-guide_1582214848065_eng.pdf)

TABLE 3.5 ONTARIO PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ECE PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP

<b>Child Ages</b>	<b>Number of Children<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Child Care<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Junior Kindergarten / Kindergarten<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Other ECE Programs<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% Children Attending ECE Programs</b>
0 to <24 months	289,895	38,580 <sup>e</sup>			13%
24 months to < 5 years	438,360	75,667	129,159 <sup>f</sup>		<b>47%</b>
5 years	149,359	n/a <sup>g</sup>	134,536		90%

a Statistics Canada. Table 17100005; Formerly Table 051-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2019, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed: April 24, 2020).

b Includes Aboriginal Head Start programs in Urban and Northern communities and Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve programs.

c Participation is estimated. Child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report. To avoid double counting, the percentage of 4-year-olds attending Junior Kindergarten is deducted from the child care count. Please see methodology for calculation details. Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. *Educational Facts, 2018-2019 (Preliminary)*. Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationFacts.html>

d Does not reflect children between the ages of 0 and 6 years who are served at Ontario EarlyON Child and Family Centres and other child and family programs.

e Includes children from 0 to 18 months (14,151) and children up to 24 months (24,429). Personal Communication, Government of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Education, October 5, 2020.

f Junior Kindergarten.

g Child care figures are not reported to avoid double counting. It is assumed children attending child care also attend Kindergarten.

## AFFORDABILITY

**TABLE 3.6 PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES RECEIVING A FULL OR PARTIAL SUBSIDY**

Subsidy Type	Full Subsidy	Partial Subsidy
All Ages	17%	12%
Family Age Group	26%	14%
Infant	22%	18%
Toddler	18%	14%
Preschool	18%	12%
Kindergarten	16%	11%
School Age	16%	10%

a Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. *Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020*. Retrieved from: <http://edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/annual-report-2020.html>

Subsidies are determined by an income test.<sup>29</sup> Full subsidies are available.<sup>30</sup>

In 2019, median parent fees among licensed child care centres ranged from \$66 per day for infants

to \$22 per day for school-aged children. Median parent fees among licensed home child care agencies ranged from \$46 per day for children under 2 years of age to \$25 per day for children aged 6 to 12 years.<sup>31</sup>

## INCLUSION

### **SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT IN KINDERGARTEN:**

School boards must develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for every student identified with special needs from Kindergarten up to and including Grade 12. School boards also have the discretion to develop an IEP for students who have not been formally identified as exceptional but who are receiving special education programs and/or special education services.<sup>32</sup>

### **SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT IN CHILD CARE:**

CMSMs/DSSABs are required to spend a minimum of 4.1% of their total child care allocation on special needs resourcing (SNR).<sup>33</sup> SNR funding supports the inclusion of children with special needs in regulated child care settings, summer day camps, and authorized recreation programs at no additional cost to parents/guardians.

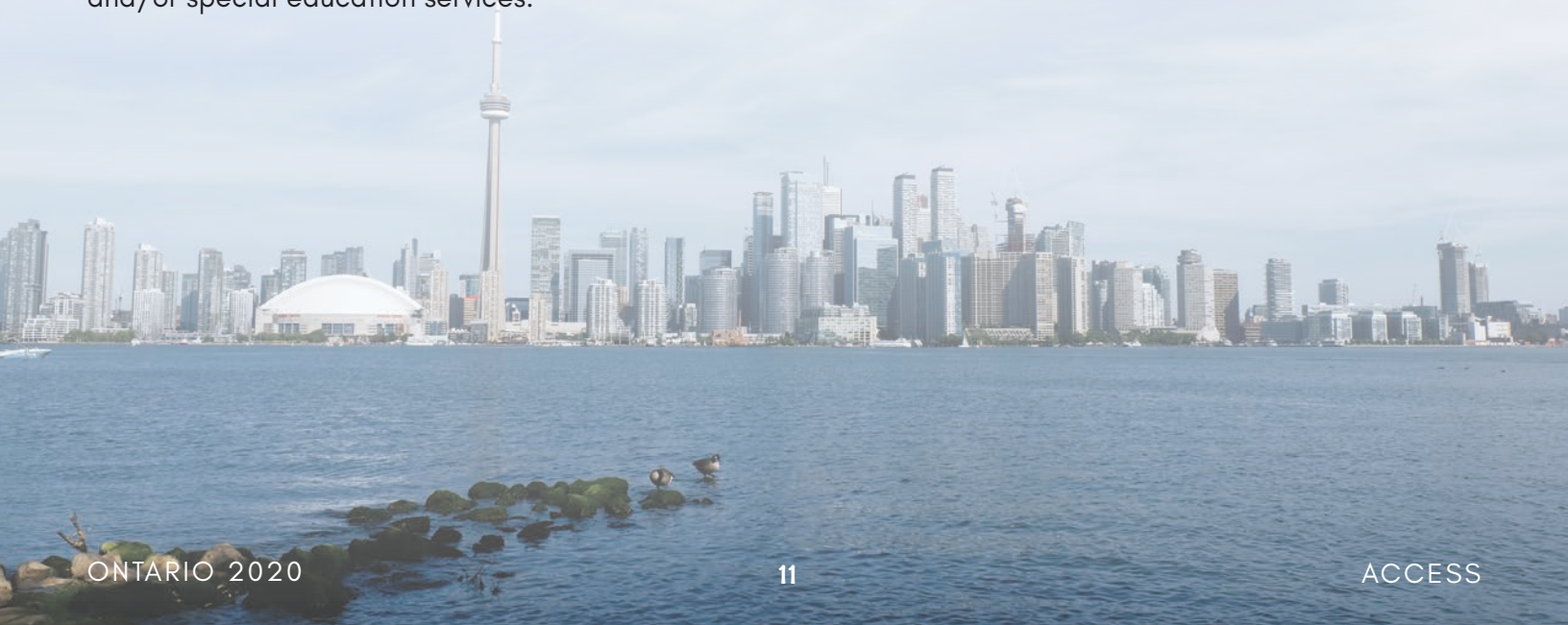




TABLE 4.1 ONTARIO CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	<p><i>The Kindergarten Program</i> (2016)<sup>b</sup> is mandated for use in 4- and 5-year-old Kindergarten.</p> <p><i>The 2019 Addendum to the Kindergarten Program</i><sup>c</sup> updates two specific expectations—expectation 6.4 and expectation 24.1—in <i>The Kindergarten Program</i> to include new learning on concussions and online safety.</p>
Child Care	<i>How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years</i> (2014) <sup>d</sup>
<p>a Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. <i>The Ontario Curriculum: Elementary</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html</a></p> <p>b Government of Ontario. <i>Kindergarten Program 2016</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/document/kindergarten-program-2016?_ga=2.108569922.1189338026.1602183961-1549516704.1602087732">https://www.ontario.ca/document/kindergarten-program-2016?_ga=2.108569922.1189338026.1602183961-1549516704.1602087732</a></p> <p>c Government of Ontario. <i>The 2019 Addendum to the Kindergarten Program</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/addendum-to-kindergarten-program.pdf">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/addendum-to-kindergarten-program.pdf</a></p> <p>d EarlyON Child and Family Centre programs and services are expected to use <i>How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years</i> (2014) to guide the development and delivery of local programs. Government of Ontario. <i>How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years</i>. Retrieved from: <a href="https://files.ontario.ca/edu-how-does-learning-happen-en-2021-03-23.pdf">https://files.ontario.ca/edu-how-does-learning-happen-en-2021-03-23.pdf</a></p>	





## WORK ENVIRONMENT

TABLE 4.2 ONTARIO STAFF/CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE<sup>a</sup>

Age	Staff:Child Ratio	Max. Group Size
<b>LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES (SCHEDULE 1)</b>		
Infant (0 to <18 months)	3:10	10
Toddler (18 to <30 months)	1:5	15
Preschool (30 to <6 years)	1:8	24
Kindergarten (44 months to <7 years)	1:13	26
Primary/junior school age (68 months to <13 years)	1:15	30
Junior school age (9 years to <13 years)	1:20	20
<b>CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (SCHEDULE 3)</b>		
	Staff:Child Ratio	Max. Group Size
		Qualified Staff: Non-qualified Staff
2 to <6 years	1:4	4
6 to <13 years	1:3	3
<b>FAMILY AGE GROUPS (SCHEDULE 4)<sup>b</sup></b>		
	Staff:Child Ratio	
<12 months	1:3	
12 to <24 months	1:4	
24 months <13 years	1:8	

<sup>a</sup> Government of Ontario. *O. Reg. 137/15: General under Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1 consolidated September 1, 2020*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137>

<sup>b</sup> The “family age grouping” (Schedule 4) for children 0–12 years allows children of different ages, whether or not from the same family, to be in the same group in the same play activity room. The family age group can have up to a maximum of 15 children with no more than 6 children under 2 years of age. Government of Ontario. Ministry of Education. *Ratios of Employees to Children, Age Grouping and Group Size (Child Care Centres)*. Retrieved from: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/earlyyears/ratios-of-employees-to-children-and-group-size.html>

**KINDERGARTEN:** The class size for Kindergarten is capped at 29 with two educators. The average size of Kindergarten classes across a board cannot be more than 26.<sup>34</sup> Schools may have only one Kindergarten class with a teacher and no designated early childhood educator if there are fewer than 16 pupils enrolled; dual track French immersion schools may have one such class per language track.<sup>35</sup>

**CHILD CARE:** A child care operator may hold an unlimited number of licences for child care centres and home child care agencies, but each individual centre and home agency is individually licensed. Limits on licensed capacity are set out in each licence.

TABLE 4.3 ONTARIO EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Kindergarten Teachers	Bachelor of Education degree or undergraduate degree and two years of teacher education are required. <sup>a</sup> French boards require language proficiency. <sup>b</sup> Catholic boards often require proof of religious practice. <sup>c</sup>
Early Childhood Educators	Diploma in Early Childhood Education from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT) or a diploma/degree from a program listed on the College of Early Childhood Educators' Approved Post-Secondary Programs List is required. <sup>d</sup>

a Ontario College of Teachers. *Requirements*. Retrieved from: <https://www.oct.ca/~link.aspx?id=25CD74DDD6A14F-3BA968490666FB1733&z=z>

b Ontario College of Teachers. *Language Requirements*. Retrieved from: <https://www.oct.ca/becoming-a-teacher/requirements/proficiency>

c See for example Toronto Catholic District School. *Fair Practice in Hiring and Promotion Policies. Appendix A. Operational Procedures: Staff Recruitment and Selection*. Retrieved from: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/HM40-Appendix-A.pdf>

d College of Early Childhood Educators. *ECE Diploma Programs from OCAATS*. Retrieved from: [https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Pages/87839BecomeAMember\\_Ontario-applicants.aspx](https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Pages/87839BecomeAMember_Ontario-applicants.aspx)

In 2019–2020, the ministry allocated provincial and federal funding for the Early Childhood Educators Qualifications Upgrade Program. This program enabled individuals working in eligible child care and early years settings to apply for grants to support them in obtaining an early childhood education diploma and becoming eligible to apply for membership with the College of Early Childhood

Educators. The program also provided opportunities for leadership development, targeted to those who were working in supervisory roles or who aspired to do so, and who were already Registered ECEs. In addition, the program prioritized funding for Francophone and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit applicants, as well as individuals working under director approvals or Letters of Permission.<sup>36</sup>

TABLE 4.4 ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

	Teachers	ECEs
Professional Recognition	Ontario Teachers Certificate from the Ontario College of Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Certificate of Registration with the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario <sup>b</sup>
Professional Development	Offered through school boards	Must annually fulfill the requirements of the Continuous Professional Learning Program through the College of Early Childhood Educators <sup>c</sup>

a Ontario College of Teachers. *Requirements*. Retrieved from: <https://www.oct.ca/becoming-a-teacher/requirements>

b College of Early Childhood Educators. *Who is Required to be a Member?* Retrieved from: <https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Become-A-Member/Who-is-Required-to-Join>

c College of Early Childhood Educators. (June 2017). *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice: For Registered Early Childhood Educators in Ontario*. Retrieved from: [https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Documents/Code\\_and\\_Standards\\_2017.pdf](https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Documents/Code_and_Standards_2017.pdf)

TABLE 4.5 ONTARIO DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES

Age Categories	Proportion of Employees that Must be Qualified ECEs
Infant	1/3
Toddler	1/3
Preschool	2/3 for groups of 24, 1/2 for groups of 16
Kindergarten	1/2
Primary/Junior School Age	1/2
Junior School Age	1/1

Government of Ontario. O. Reg. 137/15: General under Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, c. 11, Sched. 1 consolidated September 1, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137>

TABLE 4.6 ONTARIO TEACHERS AND ECES AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARIES (2019)

Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	ECE Salary as % of Teacher Salary
\$93,151	\$43,243	46%

a Maximum salary at Category 5 equivalent (as of May 1, 2019). *British Columbia Teachers' Federation. Teacher salaries across Canada: How does BC compare?* Retrieved from: <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Research/Reports/Cross-Canada%20teacher%20salaries.pdf>

b Full-time ECE with post-secondary training. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation 0620\_13 Table 4: Average and Median Wages by Selected Occupations, National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2016, Highest Educational Attainment and Sex for Employed Employees, Canada, Provinces, Territories, Annual Average, 2016 to 2019 (persons x 1,000) accessed November 19, 2020.

Ontario provides wage enhancements grants of up to \$2 per hour for eligible child care staff earning less than \$27.47 per hour and working in licensed child care centres, or in child care centres managed by First Nations. Income subsidies of up to \$20 per day are available for eligible home child care providers contracted with licensed home child care agencies with a maximum daily income of less than \$274.70.<sup>37</sup> Wage subsidies are not paid to ECEs

working for school boards or in municipal programs.

Approximately 88% of individuals working in the licensed child care sector are in wage ranges eligible to receive wage enhancement/home child care enhancement grants.<sup>38</sup> Among full-time registered early childhood educators employed by licensed child care centres, 42% earn between \$15 and \$20 per hour, and 43% earn between \$20 and \$27 per hour.<sup>39</sup>



**PROGRESS REPORT:** The Canada–Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2017–2020 requires the province to publicly report no later than October 1 of each year of the agreement, on results and expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The report should include the number of children benefiting from subsidies, number of licensed early learning and child care spaces broken down by age of child, and type of setting. The report should show separately the results attributable to the funding provided by Canada under the Agreement.<sup>40</sup> The most recent Ontario report was tabled in October 2020 for the 2019–2020 fiscal year.<sup>41</sup>

**PROGRAM STANDARDS:** In place for licensed child care.

Kindergarten classrooms within schools:

- While the Ministry of Education does not set

standards on Kindergarten space, purpose-built Kindergarten rooms are typically larger than classrooms for older grades, have separate entrances, and have washrooms and storage areas located within or close to the classroom.

- The Ministry of Education does not require a standard room size for Kindergarten or regular classrooms. Each school board determines the size of the Kindergarten and regular classrooms it builds in their new schools. School boards typically build regular classrooms that are 700–800 square feet, and purpose-built Kindergarten rooms that are 1,050–1,250 square feet.

**POPULATION MONITORING:** *The Early Development Instrument (EDI)* is collected in three-year cycles. All publicly-funded schools participate. EDI data was last collected in 2017–2018.<sup>42</sup>





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